Dalrymple (Alexander) K

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To the

PROPRIETORS

Of

EAST-INDIA STOCK.

I AM obliged to requeſt the favour of your attendance at the India-Houſe, on Thurſday the 6th April to confirm by Ballot the Reſolution of the Court of Directors, *that I ſhall be reſtored to the Company's Service*, in which Service I went to *Madraſs*, a *Writer*, in 1752.

I have authority from the preſent Chairman and Deputy to ſay that my *Reſtoration* entirely meets their approbation; and I muſt beg leave to obſerve that I did not return from India with a *fortune*, nor for any private purpoſe, but on publick Buſineſs; and, in Auguſt 1768, I preſented a Memorial to the Court of Directors begging to be returned to my Station at Madraſs, in caſe The Company did not think proper then to employ me in the Service for which I had come to England; In October following, The Chairman informed me,

" The

" The Court had not come to any reſolution but that the " Conſideration was referred to the proper Committee." I never afterwards received any anſwer to this Memorial ; but, in June 1769, The Court of Directors were pleaſed to give me £. 5000 for my *paſt Services* to The Company ; and in September 1770 appointed me Chief of Balambangan.

On the 21ſt March 1771, The Court of Directors *diſmiſſed* me from The Company's Service ; the only motive aſſigned is, that I " appeared to be a *very improper* perſon *to be employed* in " *that Undertaking*," however the Reſolution inſtead of ſaying that I be " *removed* from the *office* I then *filled*," expreſſes that I be " *diſmiſſed The Company's Service* ;" the want of preciſion in this Reſolution which was made, before the Regulating Act was paſſed, when the Court of Directors were under no reſtraint, is the only ground to require that my *Reſtoration* be confirmed by Ballot of the Proprietors : having repeatedly received the approbation of my Superiors in India, and of the Court of Directors at home, I hope it is unneceſſary, and it might be thought indecent in me, to enter into a minute diſcuſſion of the motives which induced the Court of Directors to *diſmiſs* me ; particularly as the following Declaration, is ſigned by *Fourteen* of the Gentlemen *then preſent*.

" Differences

" London, 15th March 1775.

" Differences of Opinion having ariſen concerning what " was *meant* by the *Diſmiſſion* of Mr. Dalrymple from the " Company's Service; We think it but Juſtice to declare " we *only meant* diſmiſſion from the Charge of the Expe- " dition to Balambangan."

In February 1772, the Court of Directors were pleaſed to encourage me to undertake, and gave me a Sum of Money to defray the Expences of engraving, a Chart of the Northern part of the Bay of Bengal. Having finiſhed this Work; in November 1772 I made an application to the Court of Directors, ſignifying that " although I did " not deſire to ſuperſede any man, having ever faithfully " and zealouſly purſued what appeared to me the Company's " Intereſt, I could not think the Court of Directors, meant " *for ever* to *preclude* an old Servant, whoſe Integrity ſtood " unimpeached, from the *regular gradation* of the Service;" but The Court of Directors were not pleaſed to call upon me to return to my Station at Fort St. George. I have not however been *idle*, but have employed myſelf, during the whole time I have been in England, in the manner which I thought moſt conducive to the ſervice of the Public *in general*, and of the Eaſt-India-Company in *particular*.

In

In the following Year, the Company were pleaſed to ſubſcribe for the Publication of the *Plans* of *Ports* &c. in the *Eaſt-Indies* which were in *my Collection*, and in this Work (now finiſhed and which contains *ſeventy-eight Plans* from unpubliſhed M.S.S.) I have ever ſince been engaged: however when the Balambangan Affairs came under conſideration, laſt year, I thought it incumbent on me again to make a tender of my ſervices.

After the late appointment of Lord Pigot to the Government of Fort St. George, I was adviſed by the Chairman and Deputy to make a ſpecifick application to the Court of Directors, before the Arrangement of the Madraſs Council was made, my former letters being conſidered as too general: I did ſo on the 3d inſtant, in theſe words.

" Conſcious that I have ever ſerved the Company with " zeal and fidelity, I flatter myſelf the Court of Directors will " be pleaſed to reſtore me to my ſtanding on the Madraſs " Eſtabliſhment, which will very much oblige, &c."

On

On the 10th I received a Letter from the Secretary, enclosing the Opinion of the Company's Standing Council, viz.

" As Mr. Dalrymple *is conſidered* as having been diſmiſſed " from the Eaſt-India Company's Service in *general* *, I am of " opinion that he can't be reſtored to the Company's Service, " but by purſuing the directions of the Act of Parliament of " 13th of George the Third, for regulating the Affairs of the " Eaſt-India Company."

(Signed)

March 9th, 1775. C. SAYER.

On the 17th I wrote the following Anſwer.

" TO THE HON. THE COURT OF DIRECTORS, &c.

" GENTLEMEN,

" I have received the favour of the Secretary's Letter of the " 10th Inſtant, and am obliged to the Court of Directors for " the Opinion of the Company's Standing Council, which " they have been pleaſed to tranſmit to me.

* N. B. This *Opinion* is grounded on a *falſe aſſumption*, viz. that Mr. D. is *conſidered* to have been *diſmiſſed* The Company's Service *in general*, vide the Declaration of the *Majority* of the Gentlemen *then preſent*, Page 3.

" I have

" I have examined the Act of Parliament with the utmoſt " Attention, and am perſuaded the *Spirit* of that Act cannot " be underſtood to comprehend a diſmiſſion of this nature by " the Court of Directors at home for *no crime*; nor are there " any words in the Act which can, without the *moſt forced* " *conſtruction*, be applied to my caſe.

" However, if the Court of Directors have any doubts " concerning the Act of Parliament, knowing that I have " never been *unfaithful* to the Company, I cannot have the " ſmalleſt objection on *my own part* to undergo the moſt Pub- " lick Scrutiny, and, conſidering myſelf as a *Child* of the " Company, I am not at all apprehenſive of the temperate " deciſion of *That Parent*.

" I have the Honor to be, &c."

Soho-Square,
March 17th, 1775.

The Majority of the Court of Directors, thinking it neceſſary to conform to the Injunctions of the Act; on the 21ſt of March, agreed to *reſtore* me to the Company's Service, and reported this to the General Court held on the 22d. Some

Proprietors

Proprietors inſiſted that no Conſtruction of the Act could extend to my Caſe, and therefore objected to any Ballot; but as the Court of Directors think otherwiſe, a Ballot is neceſſary to put it in their power to return me to my Station at Fort St. George: Men who ſeldom agree ſeemed univerſally to concur in opinion, that No Proprietor could give on this occaſion a *Negative*, which would be an Event highly honourable to me, but as my *Reſtoration* requires the concurrence of *three parts* in *four* on the Ballot, the favour of your attendance and Vote will very much oblige,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

Soho-Square,
March 27th, 1775.

ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE.

Queſtion to be ballotted for on Thurſday the 6th of April, between eleven o'clock in the forenoon and ſix o'clock in the evening.

"That Alexander Dalrymple, having *never* been *unfaith-*
"*ful* to the Company *be reſtored* to their Service."

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